

Lean On

by Mistress of the Arts

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Summary: Rayne Fair is the new transfer student to Radiant University. Awkward and anti-social, she struggles to make friends and is taken under the wing of her favorite teacher, Terra Antaeus. He introduces her to his world of Blitzball and this is where she encounters Sora Leonhart. For Sora, it's love at first sight. For Rayne, it's insanity! -Sora/OC Axel/OC. AU to Trade Mistakes.-

1. Chapter 1

****Disclaimer:** Kingdom Hearts & Characters Â© Square Enix. All OCs respectively belong to Mistress of the Arts and DaQiao17. Alternate Universe to "Trade Mistakes". Requested by Soriku13. Contains Rayne/Sora and Serenity/Axel.**

_**~Lean On~

>_

>Chapter 1

"Alright class, that's it for today's lesson. Homework until next Tuesday is going over Chapter 11 and doing the review at the end, along with writing an essay on Blackboard. At least 3 pages, you _can _double space. It has to be submitted by midnight on Monday, got it?"

Professor Terra Antaeus fought the urge to rub his temples as his last class for the day ended. The noisy students were quick to leave thankfully, leaving the lecture hall as grim and bare as it had been when he arrived. He stretched slightly in his desk chair, using the toe of his brown converse to scratch at the back of his ankle under the hem of his khakis. Eyes closed, he exhaled and tried to find some resolve before he would have to head on to Blitzball practice. He was the University's coach after-all. Moreover, he had a job to do and that was to coach those tykes all the way to

Nationals.

"Um...e-excuse meâ€| Pr-Professorâ€|?"

Terra looked up as he heard the timid voice of his latest transfer student, looking up and immediately into gold eyes. They quickly broke eye contact before darting down to her boots as her fingers nervously tucked some of her dual-colored hair behind her ear.

"Did you have any questions about today's lesson, Rayne?"

She jumped slightly, fidgeting while twirling a blend of black and blue hair around her fingers. "Um, actuallyâ€| I-I was wondering if maybe I could come with you to watch practice againâ€|"

Terra smiled gently, "Of course! It always helps to have someone cheering them on during practice."

Rayne looked up, giving a nervous smile. "Thank you."

She awkwardly shifted her leather black backpack over her shoulder. He noticed how she kept looking at the floor. It had been like that since the day they had met on the train coming from Destiny Islands, her hometown. She was from a small village and was still adjusting to the bustling city of Radiant Garden. Terra had noticed how difficult it had been for his student to make friends. It didn't help that her older brother happened to be Vanitas Fair â€" business tycoon and local man-whoring millionaire that practically owned the city of Radiant Garden. Most of the other students were afraid of the Fairs. They happened to be a very well known family of aristocracy, right up there with the Leonharts and the Farrons. All of the families came from the Garden Militia, and the Fair's daughter, however, definitely hadn't fit the picture Terra had conjured for her when he had learned she was transferring to Radiant University and would be one of his students.

He knew she was anxious and timid, so he had learned to be patient and attentive with the younger girl. She seemed taken with him, but it wasn't something he was too worried about. It was just a schoolgirl crush. Nothing to fret about. Rayne wasn't the type who would advance with it, unlike some of the other students he had known in past.

Grabbing his things, Terra motioned for her to follow, "Let's go get those players into shape!" He closed the classroom door behind them and began walking down the hall towards the double doors leading outside. "How are you adjusting to the city so far?"

"Honestly, it's been a little hard. I've made a couple of friends though!" Rayne actually smiled, before scratching at her cheek in a nervous manner. "Naminâ€ Strife, from Drama. And the Dean's granddaughter, Serenity. She's the one who showed me around campus and got me set up with all of my books." Rayne actually looked genuinely happy when she spoke of her friends.

"They are both nice young ladies, although if Serenity heard talk like that she would smack me since we're only a few years apart. Naminâ€ is quiet â€" much like you â€" and it's good that she made a friend also. She doesn't have many. Serenity was the same way when she first started here." Terra chuckled in amusement as he recalled a

memory, "Of course then Vanitas tried hitting on her and it was like a switch was flipped. I had no idea she even knew how to flip someone over her shoulder."

Rayne groaned and facepalmed. "Of course Van hit on her. He hits on any female remotely attractive with a pulse, so long as they aren't scrawny. Plus, he has a thing for large boobs and â€" She squeaked, clamping a hand over her mouth and turning red as she realized she was discussing breasts with her _teacher_. "So, um, how do you know Nams? I thought that she wasn't taking World History 'cause she's going into an Art Major?"

"Well her older brother is my best buddy â€" in fact he was my best man at my wedding." Terra explained, holding the door to outside open for Rayne to pass through. "We practically grew up together."

"Y-you're married?" Her eyes widened, standing out even more due to her dark eye makeup. "Wowâ€| you're so young!"

"Hey now! I'm getting up in my years. I'm going to be 28 next May."

"What's it like, being married?" She bit her lip, looking genuinely curious.

"Hmmm, it'sâ€| like having a constant companion. I get to go home to the one person who understands me the best, except Ven, and Aqua's the last thing I see at night and the first thing I see in the morning." Terra's eyebrows furrowed in thought. "It's kind of difficult to describe unless you experience it yourself. It's being content and happy all the time. Not that we don't fight or disagree; we do. There's no way to avoid things like that, but it's working through them when you know they're the one."

Rayne smiled. "So long as you're happy, Pr. Antaeus, so am I!"

Terra closed his cobalt eyes and gave her a warm smile. "Glad to hear that, kiddo. But seriously, call me Terra. You're the only student I have that doesn't and it's kind of odd." He playfully poked her shoulder before shouldering open the door to the Blitzball Stadium. "Alright, it's time get those kids into the water and focused. You know where to sit?"

"Yeah."

"Okay, I'll meet up with you in a bit then."

Rayne nodded again, taking a deep breath as they reached the end of the corridor. Terra took a left, heading for the locker rooms and Rayne continued forward, entering the stadium. Her eyes took in the familiar large orb that was the playing field, before she turned and began to climb up stairs to where the reserved seats were. She sat down and began to fidget again as she recognized some of the other students in the seats far away from her. One was an upbeat redhead that she knew was Kairi Sinclair. She was one of the most popular girls. Her uncle, who was only eight years her senior, was actually Serenity's steady boyfriend, Axel. She recognized the pyro sitting with his niece, along with Serenity.

Part of her wanted to go and join them, but nerves and anxiety left Rayne rooted in her seat. She jolted again as the locker room doors opened, hearing laughter from the team as they all climbed to the diving board at the top of the Blitzball field. Her eyes fixated on Terra originally, before trailing to Namin's twin brother Roxas, before she noticed the energetic brunette who usually scored a majority of the goals.

The star player.

"RAYNE!"

The dark-haired girl jumped in fright at the shouting of her name before whipping around. Serenity waved frantically, trying to get Rayne's attention.

"Get your bunny-butt up here and meet my man!"

Butâ€| butâ€|

Her heart and gaze zeroed in on where Terra was shouting comments and telling certain players to fix their form.

She hastily shook her head, causing Serenity to narrow her amethyst eyes in annoyance. She went to stand up and march over to where her introverted friend was sitting, but gave a loud squeak as slender fingers snagged the back of her pants and yanked her back. She ended up plopped into Axel's lap, with him nuzzling her shoulder.

"Don't pressure her, Ren~! She seems happier with her favorite teach!"

Serenity chewed on her cheek, "Oh, I guess you're right." She brushed some of her wavy, chestnut hair behind her ear. "You win this time, Rayne!" She shouted.

Rayne awkwardly waved in reply, before she turned her attention back to the practice. Terra had been focusing mostly on the two scholarship students â€" Roxas and Sora. She watched as Xion Valentine, the lone female player on the team, swam up to Sora rapidly. The dark-haired girl lunged in the water, making a grab for the blitzball in the brunette's hands. Sora twirled in the water out of reach and continued making his way to the goal, Roxas hot on his heels.

Terra tensed as he realized what play Sora was actually trying to pull off, "Leonhart! Don't even think about it!"

Sora shot up out of the water sphere, twirling and spinning around in the air with the blitzball suspended above him. When he became level with the blitzball once more, he kicked out sideways and the ball sailed straight through the water. The buzzer sounded as Sora fell back into the water, a cocky grin on his face. The crowd that had gathered to watch the practice exploded in cheers and screams of excitement.

Rayne had even leapt to her feet, watching as the player who happened to share her bestie's last name soared through the air and fell back into the water. She couldn't tear her eyes away from him. The fluid motions of his body were beautiful in the water.

"That's my baby brother!" Serenity squealed, jumping in joy.

Terra sighed heavily, brow twitching slightly in irritancy. That shot had only successfully been performed by the famous blitzball player who invented it and his son. Now, his star player had recklessly managed to pull it off during practice.

"Alright, that's enough! Leonhart, front and center! The rest of you, go shower and wait in the locker room!" Terra blew his whistle, watching the swimmers darting toward the exit at the bottom of the stadium. Sora, however, stopped drifting in the water and swam toward the top and the platform his coach was waiting at with crossed arms. He heaved himself out of the pool of water, cocky grin still in place. Terra, however, did not look amused by any means. "Soraâ€¦ I've told you before â€œ"

"Did you see how flawless that was though, Coach?"

"Regardless, it was dangerous!" Terra said sternly. His gaze softened. "Sora, I'll admit, you have talent. That's why we went all the way to Timber and scouted you. We really have a fighting shot for Nationals, but not if you hurt or strain yourself. Besides, I promised your Grandfather and sister that I would keep an eye on you."

Sora sighed in frustration, "I can make the shot though! I've been training my whole life and Tidus was younger than me when he performed it for the first time!"

Terra ran a hand through his own chocolate hair. "That's not the point, Sora. I am your coach. It's my call, and you have to do as I say. Next time you try something risky without talking to me first, I'll have to bench you. Understood?"

"Yes," Sora agreed, a note of disappointment in his voice. "But I really think we should use it in the match against Deling; they won't know what hit them!"

"I'll take it into consideration, but I have the last say so, got it?" Terra stared at Sora sternly, a serious look on his face. He gave Sora a pat on the back, "Go on, go shower. I have to go check on someone. Let the team know I'll be in shortly."

"'Kay!" Sora replied, folding his arms behind his head as he swaggered off toward the locker rooms.

Terra watched the eager Freshman before turning to head back down to where he had left Rayne. She was still standing in place, looking zoned out and staring at the water. Raising a brow, the older male snapped his fingers in front of her face a couple of times to get her attention. She jolted and nearly fell backwards, hastily catching herself and blushing once she realized her professor had returned. She awkwardly rubbed her shoulder, gripping the material of her light blue flannel.

"Did you enjoy practice?"

"Y-yeah. Um, Pro â€œ T-Terraâ€¦ who is that boy?"

"Which one? I got Tribal, Steiner, Dincht, Strife, and Leonhart. Valentine's our secret weapon and scary for a female player. Feisty, that one." Terra mused.

"Leonhart."

"Ah, the Dean's grandson. He's one of Serenity's little brothers. Why do you ask?"

"Cause he did something absolutely amazing."

Terra felt a smirk form on his lips. "Am I sensing a little fangirl crush? He's a little young for you, don't you think?"

Her cheeks turned an even worse red as she quickly looked away. "Am not! It's just that I've heard my Dad talk about the Jecht Shot whenever he watches the tournaments with my brother back home!"

"Suuure." Terra smirked as he began to herd the younger girl toward their friends standing off to the side of the locker room. "One new kid coming up!"

"Thanks a lot," she mumbled, trying to hide her smile.

"You'll thank me one day, Miss Fair. Now off you go. Enjoy your weekend and actually spend some time outside of your room. I better not find that essay at least until Sunday, okay? Socialize a little!" Terra gripped her shoulders and gave them a slight squeeze, waiting until Rayne gave a shy nod before carefully pushing her toward her friends.

Rayne staggered, tripping slightly before carefully pulling her flannel over her bare midriff as she shyly was introduced to Serenity's steady boyfriend. Kairi began to tease Rayne for the evident blush on her face. Axel joined in while Serenity playfully scolded them both to leave Rayne alone.

Knowing he had left her in good hands, Terra chuckled and turned to head down the corridor. He entered the locker room, finding his team showered and changed back into their street clothes. Roxas was sitting with his arm draped around Xion's shoulders, who was being flirted with by Demyx while Roxas playfully threatened to feed him to the shark he took care of at the Aquarium. Pence was as quiet as ever, scribbling down formulas that he used to improve his game techniques as he sat beside Hayner, who was itching to conclude practice so he could go and see his girl waiting outside for him. Sora had just finished pulling on his letterman jacket - his surname and the bold, golden **7** gleaming in the lights as they stood out against the fushia of the jacket and the golden sleeves made his sky blue eyes seemed to pop against his apricot complexion. Out of all the kids on his team, Sora was definitely the most good-looking.

Honestly, Terra was surprised the kid didn't have a horde of screaming fanatics at every practice.

"Alright boys â€” and our princess," Terra cleared his throat as Xion sent him an unamused look. "Sorry. Today's practice was great. Suggestions I have would be for Steiner," Pence jolted with brown

eyes wide in fright. "And Leonhart. Everyone else, great job. Keep it up. Steiner, stop focusing so much on your form. Your muscle works perfect for defensive. I need you to keep up on tag-teaming with Dincht. That's all. Leonhart, no more superstar moves and focus on sharing the ball a little more with Strife and Valentine. You three are our offense. That's all. See you all Saturday morning at 11! Have a great three day weekend. Go have some pizza! And get the nerve to ask out that cute guy or gal you've been daydreaming about during practice!"

Sora chuckled. "Puh-leeze. As if a girl could distract _me_ from my game!"

Terra smirked almost deviously. "Careful, Leonhart. You may jinx yourself and Valentine might steal your throne."

Xion winked before giving a salute to their coach, strolling out of the locker room with hands entwined with her teammate. One by-one they filed out and entered the corridor. Sora rubbed the back of his neck, confused by his coach's words as he slung his bag over his shoulder and made his way down the corridor. He could hear familiar voices at the end of it. He looked up, seeing his big sister along with his best friend Kairi. His sister's boyfriend - cringe - was there _again_. _

Great.

Hayner had just ran up to pick up Kairi like a princess, planting a kiss to her lips while Axel threatened to set the Dincht ablaze. Sora snorted. Hayner and Kairi were practically joined at the hips. If anyone was distracted at practice, it was _always_ Hayner.

Thankfully, they took their affections out of the hallway. Sora reached his friends, about to throw out the suggestion of going out for a pizza, when everything stopped.

His sky blue eyes widened when he gazed upon the goddess standing beside his sister. He could feel his heart stutter when her eyes, as deep as amber, locked on his form and his face flushed from taking her all in. Her silky hair was as black as onyx, falling in layers to her shoulders, with an under layer that had been dyed a blue that reminded him of water that fell to her shoulder-blades. She wasn't slim like Kairi, but she held an athletic build " which he could tell from her black midriff top she wore under her blue flannel and tattered skinny jeans. Her skin was tawny in shade, reminding him of warm sand. The darkness of her attire actually seemed to draw him in way more than the hot pink number Kairi was wearing.

He had never believed in love at first sight, but he was pretty sure he was going to eat his own words.

"Hâ€|.Hiâ€|." Sora garbled. It felt as if his vocal cords were frozen and he was pretty sure he had some goofy look on his face.

Serenity gave him a weird look, "Did you finally lose all your brain cells from holding your breath in for too long? Not that you had many in the first place."

"No. "

Sora didn't give a smart mouth reply, which immediately alarmed her. Serenity narrowed her eyes on him, actually moving forward to start checking his vitals. He was warm "okay, warm was an understatement. His face was blazing and red, like he was sunburned or ate pineapple again, which he was most definitely allergic to. He also looked completely dopey. Kind of like their father did when he was gazing at their mother when he thought no one was around.

Oh. My. Sweet. Lawd.

It had finally happened. Sora Aerin Leonhart had finally hit puberty. His hormones had awakened!

_Shit. No. Not good! Hormones are why I have four siblings, two nephews, and a niece at 22! Sora with hormones would mean more babies I'd have to raise cause my siblings are __**HOPELESS**__! WHY MOM, WHY?! WHY DID THEY HAVE TO TAKE AFTER YOUR SIDE OF THE FAMILY?!_

"Sora. SORA!" She finally whacked him with her purse.

"Ow! Ren! The heck was that for?!" Sora whined, rubbing his shoulder.

"You. Are. Drooling." Serenity hissed, "Why?"

Axel's snickering was not ignored. Rayne, who was still very confused and very silent due to the newcomer, looked at the practically cackling redhead with a classic _WTF?_ expression on her face.

"Uuummmm" "no reason?"

"Bull."

"Moving on! So who's hungry? Let's get some wings!" He marched away, quickly ushering the new girl and Axel to the exit.

Serenity narrowed her eyes at her little brother, "I will make you spill, Sora. You better hide your shojo manga."

He squeaked a little, quickly hiding it with a cough. "Oi! Hay! Kai! Stop suckin' face! We got pizza and wings to nom!" He shouted.

Kairi rolled her eyes, prying herself away from her boyfriend "rather reluctantly" before they too trailed after the Blitzball player. Serenity rolled her eyes, moving forward with her arms crossed under her bosom as she marched to keep up.

Why do I have the feeling this has something to do with Rayne here?

Sighing, Serenity figured she'd just have to wait and see.

2. Chapter 2

~Lean On~

Chapter 2

They all piled out of the cars as they pulled into the parking lot of ****Pizza Planet****. Axel had confiscated Serenity's keys to her purple Volkswagen Beetle Convertible, which had meant Sora and Rayne had been squished together in the backseat. Kairi and Hayner had just climbed out of Hayner's camo-printed Hummer, with the latter helping his girlfriend down by giving her a piggy back ride.

Rayne sent a pleading look at Serenity. All she wanted to do was go home and get her homework out of the way, especially since Vanitas would most likely bring home one of his many lovers and cause her to need therapy again. Instead, she was being held hostage by her friend's manipulative pyromaniac boyfriend, who refused to take her home. Apparently there was a high demand of socializing for the youngest Fair.

"Man, I am starving!" Hayner exclaimed as he gently let Kairi off his back by the entrance.

Sora grinned, patting his stomach, "Me too! I could eat a whole pizza myself."

Serenity gave light snort of amusement, "I'm sure you can since you've done it before. All I want are some buffalo wings. So let's get a seat."

The group of friends walked to their usual booth off in the corner that curved, making it ideal for large groups. They slid into their respective spaces, with couples sitting close together as they piled over the menu. Sora plopped on the other side of Kairi, leaving the open spot next to his sister for Rayne. She glanced toward the door, the other patrons, and then finally settled for pulling out a pair of earbuds and her phone. She sat down, looking off out the window and not even paying attention to the others trying to decide what to order.

Sora hesitated, tempted to reach over and include her, but she looked like she wanted to be anywhere but there. He settled for glancing at her phone, curious to see what she was listening to and finding Panic! At the Disco flashing across the screen. Rayne finally just crossed her arms and put her head against them, closing her eyes.

"Um, Ren? I think your friend isn't happy."

"She has a name, you dork. It's Rayne. And she's your friend now too!"

"What?!" Sora shrieked, eyes wide.

"Ow, man! I'm sitting right next to you!" Hayner rubbed his right ear, a glare on his face.

Serenity smiled sweetly at her younger brother, "Yes, your friend. Now talk to her. Or else." The threat was evident in her sweet smile. He knew that look. That was the look he would get before she would tell their parents about him sneaking out late.

She meant business.

Sora gulped as he glanced from his sister to her friend, who was staring at him from his outburst. "So...Rayne! How are you liking the city so far?" His voice kept cracking "it was like being 14 all over again!"

Gold eyes peered up from under dark lashes, nearly causing the brunette's heart to seize in his chest. Rayne pulled out her earbud and then bit down on her lower lip almost thoughtfully.

"It's different. People treat me the same though. Like I'm some sort of freak." Rayne sighed as Serenity wordlessly tugged on her sleeve and pointed at the menu. "Not hungry," Amethyst eyes narrowed in a death glare. "Okay, fine! Get me some wings too then."

Serenity patted her on the head, "Good girl."

"I am not a fluffy bunny to pat on the head!"

"Suuure."

Rayne pouted, slouched in her seat at the treatment. Serenity was the mother hen of their group, babying the girls mostly. Sora chuckled as he patted her hand across the table.

"Don't worry, if it makes you feel better she treats me like a puppy sometimes."

She quickly pulled her hand away from his. "I'm not used to people being...nice." Standing up, Rayne gestured over to the small arcade. "I'm going to go play some games while the food's being made. Later."

Kairi glanced after the dark girl as she left them. "Poor thing. She still thinks we don't like her at all."

"That's stupid. Rayne's cool. It's Vanitas we can't stand. She doesn't flaunt her family's wealth and tries to keep to herself." Hayner shook his head. "We gotta find a way to make her feel welcome."

"Then I vote for Sora to do it! He's the one she's the most afraid of. She was bullied a lot by jocks back in high school." Axel smirked, leaning back and stretching his long, slender legs under the table as he casually draped an arm around his girlfriend. "What? Vani and I go _way_ back."

"Why me?" Sora asked rather meekly.

"You need to show her that not all jocks are mean to girls like her." Hayner remarked, turning to kiss Kairi's cheek as she giggled. "I'm gonna go order for us, babe. Don't get any cuter without me here~"

Kairi giggled again, "'Kay~!"

Once Hayner was gone, Serenity and Kairi made shooing motions with their hands as Sora got up from the table. He grumbled lightly as he walked up beside Rayne who was playing one of the games.

"So...you like video games?" He asked nervously, playing with the sleeve of his jacket.

"Yeah. Animated people are easier to talk to. They're programed to either like or dislike you based on your actions and can't change their minds later on." Rayne replied, her eyes focused on the screen. "What about you?"

"I like mostly RPG's and hack and slash games. One for the story and the other for relieving stress." He watched as she focused entirely on the game before her.

"What's your favorite game?"

"_Elder Scrolls_ and _Dynasty Warriors_, mostly. I'm currently playing as a Khajiit."

"Bethesda is my favorite software studio. _Fallout_ is actually my favorite to play, but I've roamed Skyrim and seen her lands." Rayne glanced at him. "Honestly, I expected you to be one of those FPS bros."

"Oh I like to play _Call of Duty_ and _Halo,_ but not often. Mostly only when I'm bored and with Riku." Sora explained as he fished a couple of quarters from his pockets and inserted them into the game beside Rayne's, _Pacman_.

"So, uh, want to compete and see who gets the highest score?" Rayne managed a small smile as she moved to the _Mrs. Pacman_ game next to him.

"You're on!" Sora gave an excited grin and started up his game.

Serenity's voice spoke from behind them. "Um, aren't you two going to eat?"

"Not now," both chimed in unison.

Oi. I swear. Lost causes. The both of them.

"As soon as these games are over, you come and eat. Got it?"

"Fine, fine! Yes! Take that!"

Rolling her eyes, the brunette turned on her heel and headed back toward the booth. She paused, realizing one of the pizzas was missing along with a certain couple.

"Axel...where the heck did Kairi and Hayner go?"

Axel looked up from his phone, "Huh. No idea. Was reading your fanfictions."

She sat back beside Axel and snuggled into his side, "Aw! I love how you're my number one fan!" Serenity giggled slightly.

The redhead tapped the end of her nose with his finger. "Naturally. How goes the awkward ones?" He inclined his head toward the pair across the parlor. Sora was trying his hand at the crane machine,

trying to win one of the three-eyed green alien toys.

"They're both oblivious goofballs." Frustration was clear in her voice, "Sora takes after Dad too much."

"They're cut from the same cloth." Axel remarked, earning a puzzled expression. "Well, according to Van, Rayne's not too aware of the opposite sex. She was shot down in high school by the only kid she ever got a crush on. Turns out he played for the other team. It crushed her and she's kept herself distant ever since—that was say about 6 years ago. Except, now I'm pretty sure she developed a thing for her favorite teacher. We need to get her distracted, pronto." Axel smirked slightly. "That's where we are going to come in, princess~!"

"And what does my prince have in mind?"

"We get those two to hook up," Axel smirked, a devious gleam in his emerald eyes. "After all, the goth and the star player. How more cliché can this get? It's perfect! What do ya say, beautiful?"

Serenity chewed on her cheek for a moment, thinking over the suggestion. Honestly, this was the first time her brother had shown interest in anything other than Blitzball and hanging with his friends. Her elder sister Leona had been a lost cause, which is why she had nibblings who were 8, 5, and 2 years old. Ronan, who was only two years younger than Serenity, had entered his twenties with his focus on being a classic Frat Boy up at Timber State. All he cared about was getting high and drinking. Laken, the youngest, was still in high school and was already displaying douchery at only 15. Honestly, Sora had been the only one Serenity and their father were hoping would keep his act together.

And Sora had. He made average marks in school. They weren't perfect, but he wasn't failing his classes. He worked hard enough to stay involved with sports. He had been on more than the Blitzball teams back in High School. He had graduated last May with a scholarship to Radiant University, beating out five other seniors who had been aiming for it as well. When Sora was determined and put his mind to it, he could achieve anything he wanted.

Besides, he was the only sibling Serenity actually felt she had a genuine friendship with. She wanted to see Sora be happy. He was the kind of guy who would one day want to settle down and have a family. He wanted a career; unlike Leona, Ronan, and Laken.

That's why their Grandfather had been so eager to have the two of them come live with him while they attended the University he had invested so much of his life into. Not only that, in the short time that Rayne had come to live in Radiant Garden, Serenity had honestly felt like she had found a true friend. Sure, Rayne was offstandish and awkward, along with riddled with anxiety and could sometimes be a little harsh, but she had good intentions and she honestly just wanted to get her life straight. Living in isolated islands didn't leave much for a lifestyle other than being a fisherman's wife.

Vanitas had made the arrangements to provide for his sister and her schooling, while running his million-dollar Science and Research

corporation, **Fair Enterprises** upon inheriting it from his maternal grandfather when he was only 18. In six years, **Fair Enterprises** became just as successful as the **Shinra Electric Power Company** across the country in Midgar. Because of that success, the Fair family's wealth and status as aristocracy had practically tripled in the last decade. Yet, Rayne acted like a normal kid who had grown up with a simple life.

After all, she was a village girl.

Serenity pondered over it for a little while longer, before she finally reached her decision.

"Yes. I think setting them up together would be right. But let's try and let nature take its course, too. You and I both know how Rayne gets. She's still weirded out by even having so many friends."

Axel winked. "Got it memorized," He tapped his temple. "So I say we kidnap the two on a double date! We just won't tell them it's a double date. So, let's hit the arcade after this!"

Serenity giggled slightly as she saw the gears working in the info broker's mind. "Alright, Axel. We'll try it your way. But only after they eat!"

"Wouldn't dream of it any other way, princess~!"

3. Chapter 3

~Lean***On~**

Chapter 3

Why _the hell am I still in this car? Why is it so weird to them that I just want to go home and chill in my room! I love Serenity, I do, but her crazy pyro boyfriend is a manipulative asshole. Just like Vanitas._

Rayne curiously glanced away from the window of the car, which she had been staring out of since they had left **Pizza Planet**, and down at her lap where she was hugging her leather black backpack and had the toy green alien tucked between it and her arm. Sora had insisted on giving it to her, which in itself was odd. Especially for her. No one had ever won her anything before. Especially someone like Sora Leonhart.

Curious eyes glanced over at where the brunette was sitting behind his sister, leaning up to chat to the redhead driving in-between the seats. Serenity was giggling, while every once in awhile glancing back at Rayne. No matter how many times gold and amethyst eyes would meet, Serenity still hadn't gotten her mental plea to take her home or was simply choosing to ignore it for the time being.

Unfortunately, it seemed like it was entirely out of Serenity's hands anyway. Axel Sinclair was hellbent on not giving up the damn car keys. Rayne had tried begging Vanitas to come get her, but he told her he was busy with company and to have her friend drop her off like she had already said she would. So of course, tonight was one of

Vanitas' dick nights. In more ways than one, apparently.

Rayne sighed again, slumping in her seat until she felt the seat belt brush against her cheek. Her chest was tight in the dreaded familiar way " the remnants of an anxiety attack. She was doing the best she could with music therapy, but with her phone almost dead she had to turn off her tunes. The radio was playing music that didn't interest her, leaving the dark girl alone with her buzzing thoughts.

Which once again had found their way to the teen jock seated beside her. Freakishly, there were things about Sora that reminded her of Terra. Their brown hair, blue eyes, and color of their skin were the physical similarities. They were both very passionate about Blitzball, along with their hobbies. Both were naturally kind and energetic, always looking out for their friends. The similarities honestly were beginning to frighten Rayne a little.

Mainly because it meant she had to confront her pathetic crush on her history teacher. Even if she did like her professor that way, it couldn't amount to anything considering he was married and happily in love with his wife. And she was not one of those hoebags that would break up a marriage because of some crush or anything. Hell no. Though she could honestly say now that she probably had a type.

Said type freakishly fitting her bestie's younger brother. Which violated some code that had been beaten into her skull. Friend's siblings were usually off-limits when it came to dating. At least, that's what Vanitas had told her. Except, it seemed that in Serenity's group those rules didn't apply. After all, Axel was Kairi's uncle and he was dating Serenity, who was one of Kairi's closest friends.

I'm so confused. What is going on? This isn't what I expected moving here"

Her hands gripped the backpack tighter as she once again found herself gazing at Sora. He was a jock but not at the same time. It was like he was a nerd in jock clothing. Sort of. He seemed a little too obsessed with Blitzball, but so was Terra. Boys were just weird. This one in particular.

Especially since he kept going from mumbling to screaming.

"Okay, so the night is still young and I don't have any jobs. So, like it or not Rayne, we're hanging out all night! Well, at least until curfew." Axel winked at Serenity, who smiled at him. "By the way, didn't you want to ask Ray somethin', Ren?"

"Oh! Yeah!" Serenity turned in her seat slightly. "I wanted you to come stay the night so we could get some studying done tomorrow at the library with Kairi and Olette."

Rayne hesitated. "Is it alright if Naminã comes along? I wanted to hang out with her tomorrow"

"Of course!"

"Yeah, okay then."

Sora, however, did not look as thrilled as his sibling did upon

hearing Rayne's agreement to stay over. "Don't you give me that look, she's been over tons of times." He gave her a _WTF? _look in response. "Yes, idiot. Five times in fact. And you've been home all those times."

"Seriously? When?" Blue orbs widened in slight fear, "Don't you dare tell me the weekend we had to clean the house!"

"Oh yes. Especially that weekend." Serenity smiled sweetly, an evil gleam in her eyes. "She saw your dance in the kitchen. Nice Chocobo undies, by the way. Present from Uncle Bartz?"

"S-Shuddup, Ren!"

Sora was as red as a tomato now, practically hiding in the collar of his blue t-shirt. Rayne was also pink in the face, awkwardly shifting in her seat. Chuckling, Axel then made a right before pulling into the parking lot of ****Litwak's Arcade****. There was a neon sign of a black cat wearing a crown while riding on top of stuffed mog throwing dice on the side of the building. The building itself was one of the older ones, made of brick and set right on the edge of the downtown district.

"Have you ever been here before?" Rayne asked, lightly poking Sora's shoulder.

"Tons of times. Well since I moved here anyway. We had an arcade back in Timber, but it was nowhere near as cool as this one." Sora explained as he got out of the car.

Axel piped up, "Plus, my buddy Reeve runs the place. So we get a play-for-free card on some of the more expensive games." He winked before doing that temple-tap thing of his again. "Got it memorized?"

"Ax, dude, you say that _way_ too much." Sora teased. "Well, ready? I want to see if I can whoop your butt at air hockey, Sis!" He slung an arm around Serenity while Rayne climbed out of the car, reluctantly leaving her backpack inside of it.

Serenity rolled her eyes playfully, "Please. You know I'll beat you."

Sora stuck his tongue out at his sister, "Nuh-uh! Last time I won by 6 points!"

"Because you cheated! You can't keep the paddle in front of the slot!"

Rayne sighed heavily at their squabble. It was almost as bad as one of the twins' fights. Also, just as annoying. At least her fights with Vanitas were basically knocking the crap out of each other until one of them caved. Unfortunately being her most of the time, cause Vanitas would pull cheap shots such as flashing her, but still!

"Guys! it's getting dark out here. Can we go in please?"

"Alrighty people! Let's move on inside and play some vidja games!" Axel whooped as he walked to the door, a fist pumping into the air.

Once they were in the building Axel handed Rayne and Sora a key card each, "Those little beauties will let you play however much you want. Have fun kiddos!" He slung an arm around Serenity's shoulders before the couple walked away, leaving the younger two behind.

"I guess we'll play air hockey later then," Sora glanced at the young woman beside him. "Unless, maybe, you wanna play? Or we could do a different game?"

"Me and sports don't really mix, even if it is an arcade game." Rayne scanned the room around them looking for something more to her liking. "What about a two-player?" She gestured to one of the larger games with her thumb, before moving through the arcade.

It was relatively large, with a nice carpeted area, ticket machines, and the prize counter. Multi-colored lights danced and illuminated the entire area. There were a lot of high school kids there, along with a couple of parents with their children. Among the sounds of cheering and laughter were automated voices shouting "_Winner!_" And "_Please try again!_" while kids waved their winnings or pouted at the loss of precious game credits. There were booths lining one of the walls as well, along with a small concession stand that sold soft drinks, bottled water, and other various snacks. The owner, Reeve Tuesti, was chatting with Axel and Serenity while they tried their hand at Skee-ball. From what Sora could tell, Axel was hell-bent on winning one of the larger prizes. He kept gesturing up toward where a lightsaber replica, giant plushies of pandas, lions, unicorns, and even dragons hung from the ceiling, and a couple of other neat gadgets.

Of course, with Serenity being a champ at Skee-ball, she already had a giant pile of tickets pumping out of the machine. Smiling slightly, Sora slid his hands into the pockets of his fuchsia jacket as he turned his attention back to following Rayne. She was waiting for a couple of kids to free up the two-person shooter game, which looked to be a Monster Hunter styled game. She was taking a few shots at the basketball game, missing almost all of her shots. The frustration written in her eyes was actually adorable, especially as she huffed in annoyance.

"Here," Sora came up behind her as she went for another shot, placing his hands over hers. He gently moved them into the correct position. "Just relax and let the ball flow from your hands."

Rayne stiffened immediately, but not out of disgust that he was touching her. It was the opposite, actually. Suddenly, she felt her neck and cheeks warming uncomfortably as the familiar scent of _Axe Apollo_ and natural masculine scent wrapped around her. Her heart was even starting to race a little as anxiousness swept over her like a wave. The way his chest felt against her back was oddly comfortable? It was so weird. She glanced over her shoulder for a moment, surprised to find that Sora wasn't that much taller than her, only by two or three inches. For some reason, she found her eyes were mesmerized with the way words formed on his lips.

Sora stuttered as gold eyes turned to look back at him. Rayne may have had eyes similar to her brother's, but they weren't the same. While Vanitas' always bore a foreboding glint and cocky attitude, Rayne's were full of warmth and some trepidation. Like she wasn't sure of everything around her. He could get lost looking into her

eyes if he stared long enough, which speaking of, how long exactly had they been standing there because some kid was pointing at them while his parents ushered him away.

"So! Let's see if you can get it in now!"

"R-Right!" Rayne quickly broke eye contact, turning and using her left hand to give the ball a slight boost. It hit the rim before finally going in. The game went off, leaving her score, before about twenty tickets were produced. "Holy shit. That worked!"

Sora grinned, "Great job! Hey, want to go play that 2 player now?"

"Definitely!"

Emerald eyes watched as the pair turned to hurry toward the partnered game, disappearing behind the curtain. Axel folded his arms behind his head, tilting it back as he heard the sound of "_Winner!_" along with flashing lights from the Skee-ball game. Serenity had just broken the current high score, with a sea of tickets at their feet as she giggled and clapped her hands together in excitement.

"How close are we to our goal of 10,000?" Axel inquired, giving a low appreciative whistle.

"Hmâ€¼ quarter of the way. What games should we play next?"

"Racing?" Axel grinned, glancing toward the snowboarding game.

"You'll be winning the tickets on this one, I stink at racing games." Serenity grabbed up the tickets before them before heading to the prize counter for a bag to put them in. "Let's do this! Woo!"

Axel smiled at her with almost a dopey expression on his features. "God, you're so adorable when you're excited!" He ducked down to give his girlfriend an affectionate peck on the forehead. "By the way, _Operation: Fair Heart_ is underway~ guess who I caught having a moment over by the basketball game?"

"I was wondering if those nerds would do anything exciting." Serenity grinned evilly as she plotted other ways to get her brother and best friend together. "How long do you think it'll take for them to finally admit their feelings? Cause if they take until Christmas I will murder someone."

"Now, now, have patience, my dear. Rome wasn't built in a day!" The Greek philosophy major smirked slightly, "Besides, how long did it take for you to accept my asking you out? Especially since we were desperately attracted to each other upon first sight!"

"You dork," Serenity blushed deeply, not wanting to admit that she had been crushing on the older man since her freshman year of college while he had been a senior at the time. "It's not my fault you took so long to sweep me off my feet! Maybe you should improve that rusty armor of yours instead of using cheesy pickup lines, breaking into my car and leaving flowers, and having Riku trick me onto the first date with you!"

"Awww, somebody's still sore about falling for me!" Axel teased. "Now look at us, almost a year later and you're still never going to admit how awesome that car-break in was. I mean, I left you over a thousand dollars worth of flowers, ya know! Mrs. Fair thought I was completely as mad as the hatter when I placed that order for your birthday!"

"True, and they were nice. Next time though get me some I can plant in the garden, so I can look at them for as long as I want, just like I can you." Serenity smiled happily, leaning her head against his shoulder. "Just don't ever try to break into the house, Grandpa doesn't kid around with his security system."

"Lesson learned from last time I tried climbing up to your balcony," Axel cringed at the memory. "Remind me to bring over a few treats for his guard dogs next time I'm allowed over." He rubbed the rear of his red jeans, before suddenly his eyes locked across the arcade. "Well, well. What have we here?" Sure enough, he could see Sora inspecting the photo booth while Rayne was on the other side of it, counting her tickets. "Ren. Idea." He turned the brunette so her eyes were on their friends.

"I'll take Rayne, you take Sora." The couple broke apart, intent on their mission. Serenity popped up behind Rayne from around the photo booth, "Let's take a picture!"

"The fuck!" Rayne shrieked before she was unceremoniously shoved into the booth in front of her, stumbling slightly. Her body collided with another, slightly taller one and they fell to the floor.

All the couple heard from the outside as the flashes went off were curses, yelling, and one slap. Rayne hurried out of the booth as the pictures finished printing, heading toward the concession stand and muttering something about nom noms.

Serenity and Axel looked at each other for a second before they dove for the slip of pictures. The minute Axel saw the images, he bursted out laughing. Serenity giggled at the series of photos featuring the duo trying to untangle themselves, but it was the second to last photo that did her in. Sora had somehow face planted into Rayne's chest, shoving her against the back of the booth with his arms on either side of her body. The next featured Rayne bitch slapping Sora into the camera.

Said brother came slumping out of the booth, rubbing his red cheek and groaning something about military brats "which was kind of odd, considering his own family along with two of his best friend's families were all connected to the Garden Militia. Blue eyes narrowed on the photos in Axel's hands, before making a grab for them.

"Hey, give me those!"

"No way, Shrimp!" Axel held them high above his head, with Sora jumping and trying to reach them. "Not until you spill the juicy details on how your face got to second base way before your hands did!"

Sora blushed as he fought to get the pictures, "Give those back or I'll tell Grandpa you snuck into the house the other night!"

Axel let them go, watching them flutter in the air before Sora hastily snatched them. He quickly held them to his breast, exhaling in relief. Serenity quirked a brow, glaring slightly that he had even dared try to use blackmail against them.

"What are you going to do with those, anyway?"

Axel snorted, muttering something that sounded like "Fap to 'em," before popping a sucker in his mouth and folding his arms behind his head.

"NO!" Sora hissed. "Just what do you two think you're tryin' to pull anyway?! I barely know the girl! Just cause I think she's really pretty and stuff doesn't â€" shit!" Sora quickly clamped his mouth shut, whirling to run off.

Axel snagged him by his jacket and jerked him back into a headlock. "Hold up there, Superstar! So you do have a crush on Raindrop!"

"N-No!" He stuttered, struggling to get out of Axel's hold.

Serenity rolled her eyes, smacking him in the head lightly, "Sora, that's basically Crushing 101! Quit being a dork and ask her out!"

"B-Butâ€"

"No buts! Make nice with the pretty one and take her for food or a movie!"

Sora clenched his fist, "It's not that easy, Serenity! I'm not Leona, I'm not Ronan, I'm definitely not you! Do you know how hard it was for Dad to admit he loved Mom? It took him almost a year and the only reason he told her was 'cause of a life and death situation! I've NEVER been interested in dating! So tell me, Oh Great One, how the hell am I supposed to tell the first girl I've ever felt anything for that I want to...to...ugh!" Sora elbowed Axel in the ribs, managing to wiggle free. "Forget it! I can't do it! Just leave me alone about Rayne! I'm fine with being just friends!" With that said, he took off running and ducking into the laser tag area.

"...well, fuck. We screwed that up. Poor little bastard." Axel sighed heavily. "What now, Ren?"

Serenity stared off after her brother, a contemplative look on her face, "He's an idiot."

"What?"

"He forgets that he's Sora Leonhart; not his siblings, not his parents. He's different, it's why Grandpa favors us. He's an idiot but not an idiot at the same time."

"...Ren, I have no fucking clue what you are trying to sayâ€|"

Serenity rolled her eyes, "It means he forgets who he is. He has more confidence than he thinks, and more smarts about this stuff than our

family. That emotional outburst proves it. He likes her, and he's going to tell her. Mostly because Sora can't keep a secret to save his life. So they'll probably be on their first date by the end of the week because he'll fall under the pressure of his mind from going around in circles about his feelings and so in the end drive himself crazy with wonder."

"...Sometimes you scare me; good thing I love you so much."

She patted his cheek, "Hence why you're safe from my wrath. For now~!" She gave a sweet smile. "C'mon, let's go finish getting our 10,000 tickets and leave those two alone for a bit to cool down."

The couple turned to do just that, leaving the others on their on until it was time to head home.

4. Chapter 4

**~Lean On~**

Chapter 4

"What the fuck is that?" Rayne demanded dryly, stepping out of the arcade.

"My prize!" Serenity exclaimed, "Look how adorable it is! Axel won 10,000 tickets to get it for me!"

"It's bigger than he is and he's at least 6'2"! Rayne exclaimed, pointing at it.

The giant fluffy unicorn was currently being held by said redhead, who kept playing with the shimmering wings on it. The unicorn itself was purple with glitter and rainbow streaks in its white mane. It was twice the size of the bookworm, along with as tall as her punk boyfriend. Groaning, Rayne facepalmed slightly as she realized it would barely even fit in Serenity's car.

"How the hell are we all supposed to fit in there, Ren?"

Serenity tapped her manicured nail to her freckled cheek thoughtfully. "Hmm, guess it's gotta squeeze in the backseat with Sora and you." Axel moved to open the back door, pulling the front seat up so that he could strap in the unicorn. Rayne opened the other and frowned as she noticed it took up the seat and the middle one as well. "Hmmâ€¦ looks like you two are going to have to sit _really_ close then."

"Can I drive?" Rayne immediately asked.

"Sorry. You're not on the insurance." Serenity went to climb into the passenger seat.

"Then how come Axel can?"

"He's my man?"

"I'm your best friend!"

"Annnnd?"

"Goddammit, Serenity! Fine! I'll walk home!"

Sora had just walked up to the car. "Why would you want to walk home?"

Rayne simply pointed at the unicorn taking up most of the backseat. Sora frowned, climbing into the car and trying to shove it over some more so they could both sit, only to find it would barely budge. Rolling her eyes, the dark girl turned on her heel and began to march away.

Axel was quick, snagging her by her backpack strap and whirling her around until he could loop an arm around her bare waist. Rayne screamed, kicking and flailing as Axel lifted her like a sack of potatoes over his shoulder. Sora paled in fright, especially as Axel walked casually over to the car and tossed Rayne inside, hind end in the air as she went face first against the unicorn. The car door slammed before Axel hurried, slid across the front of the car, and climbed into the driver's seat. He had narrowly managed to child-lock the doors and windows just as Rayne flopped back upright, seated sideways in Sora's lap with her back against the window.

_Well this is going to be awkward. _ Sora was fidgeting slightly as Rayne got comfortable, grumbling the whole time. She finally settled on sitting in Sora's lap, an annoyed look in her gold eyes. _I stand corrected, this going to absolutely horrible. Why did my hormones finally have to kick in? Life was so easy before now!_

Sore kept his hands to either side, not daring to touch the young woman sitting on his lap, lest he be smacked again. He also tried breathing shallowly, so he wouldn't keep getting lungfuls of her scent. Seriously, why did she have to smell so good! It wasn't helping with his problem at all. _Please god don't let her notice my hard on, please! I'm sorry I took Roxas' copy of Assassin's Creed! I swear I'll give it back!_

"Drive faster, please." Rayne said, leaning forward to lean in-between the couple up front.

The subtle brushing of her rear against his groin caused Sora to accidentally let out a small grunt. The car turned to the right, leaving downtown and heading in the direction of Radiant University. Sora bit his lip hard, trying hard to ignore the painful throbbing coming from his jeans.

"Hey now, I gotta obey the traffic laws, Raindrop."

"Look. Either find a way to get us home without the thirty minutes of downtown traffic or else I'll call my brother!" Rayne growled. "You owe Van a favor, and I'm cashing it in! Speed if you have too! I'm going to die of suffocation and by a goddamn unicorn cause of you, Sinclair!"

Axel rolled his eyes as he turned to get on the expressway, "Fine, fine. The princess commands it and so shall it be done." He pressed down on the gas pedal, speeding up in the fast lane.

"Sit back before you get us pulled over!" Serenity then chastised, "Sora's not going to deflower you!"

Both turned pink before Rayne awkwardly leaned back again, trying to get comfortable. She finally settled for draping her arm behind his head, trying to ignore how soft his chocolate tresses were against the skin of her forearm. Her other hand gripped the knee of her jeans, with fingers idly playing with the frayed material. This had been the closest she had ever been to another person, _especially_ a boy.

Sora tapped his fingers against the side of his leg nervously. He kept trying to think of things to make it go down but nothing was working! He even imagined his grandpa in a speedo! It was like all the years of puberty were catching up to him now that he actually found himself attracted to someone. At least now he knew how Riku and the guys felt. It sucked! _Wait! Don't think about sucking! Dammit!_

Especially since he didn't want to admit outloud that Rayne definitely had bedroom eyes. Goddammit. He was going to die.

I'm going to frickin' die now.

He could see the headlines now. Teens die due to giant ass unicorn and awkward sexual tension while cramped together in small car.

Why didn't Serenity pick a bigger car?!

He glanced down at where Rayne had shifted again, gulping slightly. He never noticed how nicely her jeans fit her frame. She was built nicely, even if she wasn't as slim as Kairi was. She had more of an average build, but damn did those jeans really show off her curves and â€œ

Fuck. I am one of those.

He didn't even know he was attracted to girls' butts until now!

"_I like big butts and I cannot lieâ€¦!_"

Axel perked up on hearing the muttered singing from the backseat. "Hell yeah, that's my jam!" He quickly typed in the song on the music selection, starting it up. "_I like big butts and I can not lie, you other brothers can't deny. That when a girl walks in with an itty bitty waist and a round thing in your face, you get sprung!_"

Rayne couldn't help feeling like she had walked into the Twilight Zone as she watched her best friend and her boyfriend jam out to a song about big butts. Although she will admit that Axel had some mad rapping skills. She knew first hand since they both listened to _Hollywood Undead_ a lot. She could even hear Sora singing it under his breath.

This entire group of friends is insane. How does NaminÃ© even handle them?

She pulled out her phone, immediately scrolling through her contacts to find _Dad_.

-_Dad, why didn't you tell me the city was full of weirdos?-_

-Life lesson, sweetheart! Also, city life is good for ya! Don't give up on your dreams! You can be a hero so long as you have your dreams and honor!-

-Dad. I am not going into the military. Stop asking.-

-Aw, fineâ€¦ Spoilsport. Love ya kiddo.-

-Love you too.-

Rayne sighed heavily, wondering how in the world she ended up with someone like Zack Fair as a father, before shaking her head. The three of them were now singing a song called _Whistle_, and she was about 90% sure it was about blowjobs. Groaning a little, Rayne shifted again â€” still feeling something poking her uncomfortably â€” before she scrolled to her mother's number.

-_Mom! The city is weird! Why didn't you let me stay at home?!-_

-Time to grow up, sweetheart! Besides, you were the one who always complained about living in the islands. You'll be just fine. But remember, crime television is based off truth! Stay safe! Love you, kisses!-

-Thanks a lot, Mom.-

Rayne groaned again, giving up on her parents. Knowing her mother, she was probably too busy running her three businesses and tending to her flowers. Rayne sighed before wondering what her mother, Aerith, had been like at her age. Probably just as scary.

Finally, after a few more awkward songs, Serenity's home came into view. Much like Rayne did, the Leonharts lived on the outskirts of the city, where a lot of the more expensive houses resided. The mansion in particular that Serenity resided in with her brother under their grandfather's care was honestly the most beautiful of them all.

It was white and had a very exotic Southern Italian style to it. The grounds had large fifty foot walls surrounding it, along with orchards and vast woods. Beautiful gardens decorated one side, and there was an Olympic sized swimming pool that the veranda dipped down into. The tower with the beautiful view of the grounds on the West Wing was where their grandfather, Laguna Loire, resided. The East Wing was dominated by the grandkids.

Axel pulled up the gate that had the Leonhart's coat of arms, which happened to be a lion, above the archway. Axel flashed the keycard that opened the gate, before driving up the rest of the driveway and toward the car port. Serenity opened the garage door, revealing more than one vehicle parked inside. Sora looked at the spaciousness of his crimson _Scion FR-S _sports car and then sent a death glare at the stupid unicorn taking up the majority of the backseat. Axel parked in Serenity's usual spot before shutting off the engine.

"Sora, be a dear and grab my unicorn for me while I say

goodnight~"

Sora rolled his eyes, "Kay,"

The moment the car door was opened, Rayne flipped out of the car and took off toward the doorway. She typed in the passcode to unlock the door, hurrying inside. She hurried her way through the maze, practically skidding into the recreational room where Laguna was playing video games. The man, though 67, looked no older than 35. The only indication of his age was the streak of white in his long brown hair. Green eyes seemed to light up, especially as Rayne latched onto Laguna in a hug.

"Save me from your granddaughter. Please."

Laguna blinked, slightly confused as he patted the dark-haired girl on the back, "O-kayâ€|.do I want to know?"

"Noâ€|. No you do notâ€|." Rayne shuddered as Laguna lead her to the black pleather couch that sat before the 75" plasma screen TV. An episode of Once Upon a Time was playing.

"You just sit there and I'll see what all the commotion is about." Laguna walked out of the recreation room, heading to find his grandkids to see what mischief they had managed today.

Naturally, Laguna located them in the foyer, arguing about what seemed to be another trinket of Serenity's boyfriend's affections. Sora looked more than done with his sister, who had a stern look on her face as her hands were promptly on her hips.

"Sora, I asked you to take it to my room!"

"No way! I'm so done with you today!"

"Now, now! Let's not kill each other over...whatever that creature is." Laguna stepped between them, clapping his hands together.

"Serenity, darling, if it is your property then you are responsible for it. However, Sora, if you agreed to help her with it then you should have followed through. Now, what I would like to know is why a particular young heiress just came rushing into my arms as if the Devil's hellhounds were on her heels. What exactly have you put our dearest Rayne through this time, Serenity?"

"You know, bestie stuff."

Laguna sighed. "Of course. Well, I'll have to ask that you refrain a little on it tonight. Okay? She's at her wit's end."

Serenity pouted, "Fine. Whatever you say, Grandpa."

He gave her a kiss on the temple. "Now, Sora, come with me my boy. I'd like to talk to you in private. Serenity, treat our guest of honor well! That means yes, you may get into my Ben and Jerry's stash. Poor thing needs some Rocky Road, stat." Laguna chuckled, before putting an arm around Sora's shoulders and leading him up the grand staircase and toward the East Wing.

"Soâ€|. what did you want to talk about Grandpa?" Sora asked as they came upon Laguna's study.

Laguna gestured for Sora to sit in one of the chairs in front of his desk. The younger brunette did so, squirming slightly. He could never get comfy in these chairs. They were not fun in the slightest.

Laguna smiled gently. "I just have a hunch is all. A great journalist always knows when a scoop is under their nose." Folding his hands, green eyes met blue inquisitively. "When Serenity referred to her antics as "bestie stuff", did it involve you in any way?"

"...Maybe. I don't know, really." Sora mumbled as he slouched in the chair, his arms folded before him.

The man inspected his grandson carefully. "Ah, I see. You're in love." He smiled gently as he leaned back, crossing his arms over his chest. "Your father wore the same look in his eyes when he met your mother. He wasn't willing to admit it, naturally. You know how your father is emotionally. I'd say that Miss Fair is an excellent choice, in my book. Of course, I had been rooting for you and Riku to unite the Farrons and Leonharts, but Rayne is quite the looker. Just like her mother." Laguna actually gave a dreamy sigh as he thought of the Aerith Fair. "She was quite fetching when she was in her twenties as well. Did you know she modeled swimsuits? I was quite the fan. I bought every magazine she was featured in and even had all her posters in my workout room!" Sora was turning dark red now with every word out of his grandfather's mouth. "Like myself, Serenity has a knack for perception. You cannot hide your feelings forever, my boy. If you truly care for this girl, you must be a gentleman and woo her. Am I clear?"

"Sure. Just don't talk about your crush on Rayne's mom and I will." Sora shuddered at the thought of his grandpa having any kind of lustful thoughts. _I thought 60 year old libidos were dead at that age._

"Of course, we must also consider Miss Fair's personality. She's quite shy, I must say. She reminds me of Julia" He paused, before coughing awkwardly at the mention of their maternal grandmother, who happened to be an old flame of his. "Anyway, just make sure not to scare her off either. She needs a nice lad like yourself, Sora. Especially since the main exposure to men she's had in her life has been Zack Fair and his rambunctious son, Vanitas."

Sora nodded. "Can I go now, Grandpa? I'm tired."

Laguna nodded as well. "Goodnight, my boy. Sweet dreams."

"You too, Gramps."

Sora walked back to the main staircase, crossing the landing to the West Wing where his and Serenity's rooms were located. He was so exhausted between practice and the emotional/sexual roller coaster he had been through tonight. He wanted to burn some steam off through _Call of Duty,_ but he was just so done with tonight. As soon as he walked into his room, he flopped face first onto his bed. He didn't even bother turning on the lights.

Why God? Why did you give me an insane sister, her pyromaniac man, and make my hormones jumpstart for the first time in my life?

More specifically, Sora wanted to know why it had to be her.

A girl who was worlds apart from him. She had been labeled an outcast. Gothic, antisocial, introverted, and honestly feared by most of the student body. No one really knew much about Rayne Fair other than Namin's Strife and his own sister. The only thing people knew was what the papers portrayed. The made her out to be a stuck-up bitch.

That wasn't the case. She was actually sweet; just shy and painfully awkward. She didn't know how to talk to people. Maybe cause she had grown up in Destiny Islands. He knew the place and its isolation, having spent every summer there with his godfather Bartz since he was small. Every summer, Riku and him would go to the Islands to stay with relatives. It was there they had met Kairi. The three of them had been inseparable.

Sometimes, Vanitas would come and bother them while they had been playing on the islet. Rayne had always been with her brother, but she always kept back and never said anything to them. She only stepped in if Vanitas' teasing was going too far. Rayne had defended them more times than he could remember, yet she had knew nothing about any of them. She had just been that strange, older girl who wouldn't let her brother pick on the little kids.

Still, whenever Sora had tried to thank her or talk to her before as kids, she would run the other way. That's why he hadn't really recognized her at first. She was so different from back then. Now, she was actually someone who talked to him. She actually acknowledged him.

He had known of her, but never knew her. Not until today.

And to think, all he could think about was how perfect she was. Perfectly out of his league. For the longest time, everyone had thought Kairi and him would've hooked up, but Sora had always seen Kairi as the little sister he had always wanted. He had Laken, but Laken didn't like him cause he couldn't beat him at sports or video games. It wasn't the same.

"What the heck am I supposta do now, huh?" Sora said to the ceiling. "She'll never be into me. I'm just a stupid jock. I'm not good enough for her. She deserves someone like Roxas. Someone who understands herâ€|"

His heart was broken before he even had a fair shot.

"Fuck you too, Fate." Sora hissed.

He finally rolled over onto his stomach, pulling his pillow close, and tried to fall asleep.

If only sleep would come and Rayne would get out of his head.

5. Chapter 5

__**~Lean On~**__

Chapter 5

The University Library was vast and large. It was full of rows upon rows of books. There was a main floor with two floors above it, the center open and spacious so that one could look down at the main floor from above. There were many cubbies spread all throughout for students to have privacy while studying along with tables scattered in the open for large groups to study together. Each bookshelf was made of mahogany, while the tables and chairs were made of chestnut. The library was bright and airy with light colors on the wall and carpet so that it wouldn't seem stuffy inside. On the left side of the library there was a decent sized computer lab with state of the art equipment.

On the third floor, in a far off corner on the floor and hidden between two bookcases sat Rayne and Namin. Books were open between the two, with a large spiral notebook full of crude handwritten notes before the goth and pretty script on a butterfly-printed paper of the notebook before the artist. Rayne was tapping her blue highlighter against her knee, sitting with one leg tucked under the knee she had propping her notes. Namin was quietly scribbling away more notes into her own notebook, with the two of them going over everything for their upcoming test in Drama. Professor Genesis Rhapsodos had a reputation on making his tests damn near impossible to pass, despite the course being relatively easy. He wanted massive amounts of detail on a play that wasn't even finished, yet it had become the man's obsession.

"I swear to Christ, if I read another line of _LOVELESS_, I will gouge my eyes out." Rayne muttered, finally dropping her notebook beside her so she could use her knee to prop up her head.

The blond artist carefully glanced up from her own notes. "Something is off about you today, Rayne. You're usually not this moody until another hour of studying." She turned to a fresh page, closing her script and moving to open her dictionary to write the definitions of some of the more articulate words of the play. Her pen moved fluidly across the paper with her eyes glancing from the book, to her writing, and then back on where her closest friend was groaning mildly. "You can tell me, Rayne. I know something happened yesterday. You didn't call me like you usually do."

"Ren kidnapped me," Rayne muttered. "That's all."

"Rayne, I know when you're holding back things. Please, I'd like to help." Namin said, finally closing her books once she bookmarked them. She smoothed out the hem of her white dress before shifting slightly closer. "What all happened?"

Rayne hesitated slowly, before she awkwardly began to rub the back of her neck. A mess of black and blue strands twisted around her tawny fingers, before they released her hair and she moved her focus to picking at her black nail polish.

"I met Serenity's brother, officially."

"Sora?"

"Yup. That's the one."

"And...that's a bad thing?...Good thing?" NaminÃ© prompted gently, waiting patiently for her friend to spill the beans so to speak.

Gold eyes shifted away from quisitive pale blue ones, before she focused on picking lint off the front of her _Breaking Benjamin_ band t-shirt. NaminÃ© waited patiently for the older girl to speak, with hands folded in her lap. Finally, Rayne's lips parted in a broken whisper.

"He makes me...feel thingsâ€|"

"What kinds of things exactly?"

NaminÃ© was ever patient, being from a big family. Especially since her father had the emotional capacity of a teaspoon and it was hard for him to express himself because of it. She had somehow become her parents' marriage counselor when she hit her late teens.

After all, between her father being ex-military, her mother having her eldest son at only fourteen, and later having twins, when they had only expected one baby, made things a little strained. They also had adopted a friend's daughter and an orphaned boy, giving her a little sister and brother to dote on. Still, it seemed NaminÃ© was the only one to keep it together when things were entirely stressful in the Strife household. That was part of the reason her twin brother and her had come to Radiant Garden to live with their older brother Ventus while attending university.

"He...he's not what I expect. At all. He's like me. Nerdy and awkward. He doesn't seem to notice girls or care about getting laid or anything like Vanitas. He's kind of... nice. Like, really nice. The kind of nice you can't fake, Nams. And his kindness _hurts_. 'Cause I expect it to all be just some joke or bet." She then deepened her voice, "Dare you to befriend the new girl and break her heart, Leonhart!" Shaking her head, Rayne finally slumped forward and focused on the laces of her boots. "I don't...want to lose anyone else. I mean, you know what happened with Kenji. I thought he was my friend, and maybe more, and he was just being nice to me cause he had to. And he shot me down tooâ€|"

NaminÃ© chewed on her cheek thoughtfully, wanting to make sure she worded everything right before speaking. Very slowly, she began to speak. "Wellâ€|.I can assure you that Sora isn't that kind of person. Sora isâ€|.just too kind. Really. If you like him I think you should give him a shot, he would be good for you."

"I'm not his type," Rayne muttered, tugging on her ponytail. "Seriously, NaminÃ©, look at me. I'm the weird goth girl. He's the star of the Blitzball team."

The blond tipped her head to the side. "So does this mean you've overcome your infatuation with Terra?"

"Yeah. Pretty much. But that doesn't mean that this is any different. I don't have a shot in hell. Terra is my teacher. Also, married. Sora's three years younger than me, plus how in the hell could a guy like that ever be into someone like me? I attract no one. I'm not even that pretty. I mean, I guess I'm kinda cute but not cute enough for _Sora Leonhart_."

"You're too hard on yourself, Rayne." NaminÃ© said sadly. "You should give yourself more worth. You're sweet and genuine. If someone doesn't like that about you, there's something wrong with them. Why are you giving up before even trying?"

Rayne's vision blurred slightly. "I dunno," She whispered. "I just don't feel good enough for him."

"Well Sora's never really been interested in anyone before. He's always been really obsessed with Blitzball and for a long time all of us thought he was gay for Riku. That is until Riku asked me out. How did Sora take your meeting anyway?" NaminÃ© asked, picking a piece of lint off the skirt of her dress.

"I dunno, weirdly? He kept muttering and then yelling. He would try to talk to me and then avoid me. It also didn't help Ren was acting weird too. I told you about the damn unicorn. I felt bad for the kid. I am not light. I weigh at least one-thirty."

"Rayne, he probably was acting strange cause he thinks you're pretty. Sora gets weird when he likes things. You should have seen him on the first day of school. He screamed at the sight of the Blitzball stadium and grabbed Roxas, nearly knocking them both down."

"I dunno, Nams. I really don't."

"Justâ€¦ ask him to hang out. See what he says."

"H-how? I don't have his number or â€œ"

NaminÃ©'s phone was held out to her, with Sora's contact picture â€œ" one from his championship match from high school â€œ" shoved in her face. Gulping, Rayne hesitated before she awkwardly took the phone to copy the number into her own phone. She then nervously chewed on her lip before debating about hitting the dial button.

Casually, the blond leaned over and tapped it. "Whoopsie," she said innocently.

"W-wait, I'm not read â€œ" Rayne cut herself off, taking a deep gulp of air as the phone answered on the first ring.

"Uh...uhâ€¦.umâ€¦."

"Hey, who is this?"

Oh god. It was Sora's voice for sure.

I'm going to die now. I'm going to frickin' die.

Anxiety was going to kill her.

NaminÃ© rolled her eyes good naturedly before leaning over so Sora could hear her, "Hey Sora, Rayne is on the phone with you, but a cat's got her tongue. Would you like to hang out with her tonight?"

There was a pause.

"Sora?"

"Y-yeah. Yeah. I'd like that a lot. Um, I can come pick her up whenever you guys are done studyin', since I think Ren is going shopping with Olette and Kairi. I can drop you off at Riku's if you want, Nami."

"No, thank you. I have dinner plans with Ven," the blond politely declined. "We just finished actually. How soon can you be here?"

"Uh, give me ten to leave and I'll be on my way. See ya!"

Rayne simply stared at the phone, long after the call had ended. Giggling, NaminÃ© hung up for her and saved the number, before she moved to begin packing all of Rayne's books and notes for her. Five minutes later, Rayne was _still_ sitting in place.

"Rayne? Rayne. Hello? Rayyyyne."

She finally responded, lifting her head up. Her eyes were the size of saucers. She looked like she had swallowed a goldfish and had paled considerably, looking scared to death.

"Rayne, I promise you, everything will be okay." NaminÃ© swore, gently fixing the other girl's bangs for her. "Just breathe. Remember your exercises."

Rayne shook her head, about to have a full-blown panic attack. NaminÃ© bit her lip, finally just snagging the earphones and setting up the goth girl's music. She seemed to calm down once she had the distraction.

Now, she had to get her outside without accidentally killing her.

I hope I did the right thing.

6. Chapter 6

**~Lean On~**

Chapter 6

What just happened? Sora sat on his bed in a daze. Snapping out of it, he pinched his arm just to make sure he wasn't dreaming or spacing out. _Nope, that definitely hurt!_

It was then that the panic set in.

"Why am I just sitting here?! I need to get ready!" He began darting around his room, trying for clothes that were actually clean and not a day old clean. He did not want to smell for this date. Outing. Whatever it was! Running over to his closet he frantically searched for a decent shirt and jeans, finally finding a red polo shirt with some tan cargo shorts since apparently all of his jeans were dirty. "Please don't let her think I'm douche because I'm wearing a polo shirt! I like my polo shirts! They're comfy!"

He ran down the hallway and stairs, heading out to the garage to get in his red _Scion FR-S_. Buckling in he opened the garage door with

his remote control garage door opener and tried not to peel out of the driveway. If he left skid marks his Grandpa would kill him. As he drove down the highway, he tried to get his breathing under control.

_Okay, Sora! You can do this! It's just like hanging out with Riku. Only I was never attracted to Riku, nor did I ever have the feelings I have for Rayne for himâ€¦.Okay so maybe it's not like hanging out with Riku. This is either going to be the best night of my life or this is going to end terribly and Rayne will hate me. _

He pulled up to the curb in front of the main entrance to the school library. He scanned the students milling around before he spotted Rayne slowly making her way to his car. He quickly hopped out and moved to the passenger side door to hold it open for her like his Mother had taught him.

He smiled nervously as she walked up, "H-Hi, Rayne!"

She was hugging one of her books to her chest, her backpack slung over her shoulder. She tried to speak, but only managed an awkward wave. He watched as she glanced back toward the parking lot. NaminÃ© was getting into Ven's green _Ford Escort_ while Serenity, Kairi, and Olette all piled in Serenity's car to head for the mall. Rayne seemed to stiffen and jolt, noticing a familiar skinny blond coming in her direction. Without another moment's hesitation, Rayne practically dove into the car. Sora blinked, confused at first, until he finally realized who the girl was. She was a senior and was a local bully. Not many people liked her, but she did run around with Axel and his crew. Her name was Larxene and she could be a serious bitch.

Sora felt a strange wave of protection wash over him. He made sure to close the door, before motioning to give him a second. He didn't know where this boldness was coming from. Normally, he kept his mouth shut.

Not today.

"Aw, shit. I wanted to show that little freak how ugly her hair looks pulled back." Larxene was saying, laughing to her friends.

"Oi, Larxene!"

Green eyes locked on him immediately before rolling. "Oh great. It's the Dean's pet. What do you want now, you little pest?"

"You to go fuck yourself. Leave my friend alone."

"Oh. My. God. You're actually _friends_ with that freak?" Green eyes flittered before her lips formed an "o" and she smirked. "Oh, I get it now. She's probably sucking you off to keep her ass from being beat. God, just cause she's _Vanitas Fair_'s_ sister, she acts like she's so superior. Fuckin' whore ass bitch needs to learn..."

Okay, that was going too far.

Sora actually felt a surge of anger go through him, about to move forward and show Larxene her place when he felt someone snatch the back of his shirt. He turned around, surprised to find Rayne standing behind him. She shook her head slightly, before gesturing to the car.

Sora hesitated, but nodded and then turned to follow her.

"I learned it's best to just ignore her," Rayne said quietly, once they were in the car.

"I'll take care of this, Rayne. How long has she been bullying you?"

"...since the day I moved here."

"But you've been here since the beginning of the month. Why haven't you reported it to Grandpa?"

"Cause I can take care of myself. Bullies, I can handle. It's people being nice to me that I freeze up on."

"Rayne, Grandpa has a zero tolerance policy against bullying. It doesn't matter who she is or if she can pay, if she's bullying you he would rather she be gone than taint the reputation of his University." Sora had a serious look in his eyes, "Didn't Namin ever tell you what happened to her in high school?"

Rayne shook her head. "She tried, but I got so pissed I nearly punched a hole in her wall so she stopped." She was digging her nails into her thighs, looking agitated.

"Well that guy applied here and the minute that Grandpa found out someone like that was going here, he kicked him out and blacklisted him." Sora got behind the wheel again and just started to drive around for the time being while they talked about Larxene.

"It's...not just you she picks on either. I know there's Namin, but she hasn't said anything and it has to be the victims to report her. There are others too. They're all just too scared even if I tell them it'll be fine."

"Should I should tell Laguna then?"

"Yeah. You really should, Rayne."

She smiled faintly. "Thank you, Sora. I feel a lot better." Taking a deep breath, she awkwardly laced her fingers in front of her. "Okay, so, where do you wanna go?"

The brunette glanced at the different places passing them by. Honestly, he wanted to take her somewhere nice. After all, she was still quite new to the city. He figured her brother had dragged her to all the fancy 5-star restaurants and she had been to the local food joints with his sister and Namin, since that's all Namin could really afford.

"You hungry? I know of a really nice little diner. I think Olette's family runs it."

"Food actually sounds fantastic right now. I forgot to eat this morning when Serenity and I got up. She was too excited to show me her personal library, since I hadn't gotten a chance to see it yet."

"Okay, **Selphie's** it is."

Sora made a right, heading away from downtown and toward the district that NaminÃ© lived in with her brothers. Rayne was quiet for the most part and so was he. He wasn't really sure what to say. Honestly, nerves were practically eating his stomach.

"So...what kind of food do you like? I mostly like pizza and burgers, but I could eat my weight in Wutai food." Sora tapped his fingers against the steering wheel nervously.

"Honestly, fast food is my favorite. I know it's bad for me, but I grew up in a place that didn't have stuff like that. Vanitas usually bribes me with cheeseburgers if he wants something."

"**Selphie's** has some of the best burgers! I always get the Bleu Cheese Burger, I love Bleu cheese." Sora bounced in his seat out of happiness at the possibility of having his favorite thing in the world.

Rayne actually found herself giggling. His actions were actually adorable. She smiled slightly, just watching the brunette fondly for a moment. Strangely enough, she was beginning to feel at ease with the younger Leonhart. Much like how she had felt after getting to know Serenity.

"I'll have to try it." Rayne looked down at her lap, nervously picking at her polish again. "So, umâ€¦ I wanted to askâ€¦"

Sora tilted his head to the side in question, sea blue eyes curious, "Ask away!"

"How come...you...um...agreed to hang out with me?"

Sora tensed, a nervous quality to his voice, "W-Well I, um...just thought you were really ...cool from the other night and wanted to hang out again, is all."

"Me? Cool? Wow, um.. Th-that'sâ€¦" Rayne fell silent before nervously twisting her hands. "Okay, so, what do we call this? Cause, um, your sister thinks it's a d-dateâ€¦"

Thinks was not the term any other person would use. Downright convinced was more like it.

"Weeell...we could call it an outing if you don't want to call it a date," Sora suggested, fingers tapping against the steering wheel. Realizing what he said though, Sora backtracked a bit, "Not that it has to be a date! Or that I think it's a date!...I mean it could be if you like, but it's all up to you! I'm just a dummy!"

"What if I said that I _do_ want it to be a date?"

I can't believe I just said that.

"N-nevermind! I-it was just a joke!" She waved her hands, before nervously chewing on her thumb nail as Sora continued to drive toward the diner. She quickly looked away from the brunette, feeling her heart threatening to explode in her chest. She felt foolish for even daring to try and be brave about this. Her? Brave? Yeah right. She was the black sheep of the Fairs and that meant cowardly.

Sora kept taking glances at Rayne out of the corner of his eyes, a dark blush across his cheeks, "I-If you want this to be a d-date, I-I would like that a-a lot!"

"S-Seriously?!"

She didn't mean to yell. It just kind of came out in a yell.

Sora startles slightly at the exclamation, blue eyes wide, "Y-yes?"

"...I'm so weirdâ€¦" She groaned, hiding her red face in her hands as she slumped in the seat. "I-I'm really new to the whole dating thing. I'm sorry. If you wanna take me home, that's fine... "

"No!" Sora exclaimed frantically, panic in his eyes, "I-I mean, it's just that you're the only girl I've actually had any real interest in, let alone pursued. This is seriously the first date I have ever been on."

"Wait. You? I mean, I get me. I'm the socially awkward, introverted, gothic gamer chick who hates going out of the house. But you? You're the star player. You have so many girls crushing on you, it's insane. I meanâ€¦ c'mon. Are you just messing with me? Cause if you, a guy who is hotter than any celebrity and is actually sweet, hasn't been on a date then Hades is running amok on the world again."

Sora laughed, a sheepish grin on his lips, "Well I haven't really been on a date because Blitzball has been my life. I just haven't met a girl who had caught my until you. You really interest me."

Rayne felt like she was about to burst into flames at that. Sora didn't seem to be lying either, which was scaring the crap out of her. Nervously, she watched as he pulled into the parking lot next to the diner. She couldn't really speak at the moment. She was still flabbergasted that Sora's first date happened to be with her, and it was also her first date and now everything was awkward and nerve-wracking, not to mention insane and-

"Rayne? Um, food's in there."

She jumped, immediately trying to scramble out of her seat, only to have the seatbelt yank her back. Sora chuckled a little, leaning in and unbuckling her, before offering his hand. She nervously took it, being helped to her feet. Honestly, the nerves she had were making her weak in the knees, so having Sora's hand to hold was keeping her steady.

They walked into the quaint little diner and Rayne was instantly met with mouth watering smells. The inside was cozy and surprisingly not gaudy like diners usually tend to be. It was like walking into her mother's kitchen back home.

A grinning woman stood behind the counter, she had short brown hair that was flipped out at the ends and mischievous forest green eyes. "Well, well, if it isn't Sora Leonhart. Decided to bring your date to my wonderful establishment, huh? Don't worry we've got the best diner food in town if I do say so myself." She smiled and then motioned for a cute brunette, who looked almost identical to her wearing an orange waitress uniform to come over. "Olette, want to show them where to

sit? Olette will take care of you tonight!"

"Sora! Rayne! It's good to see you!" Olette greeted as she walked over, order pad in hand and pencil stuck behind her ear, "Come over here, I got the perfect spot!" She led them over to the side, towards the back and away from the big crowds. "What can I get you two to drink!"

"Cola," Rayne immediately answered.

"Same for me, Olette!" Sora gave her a smile as Olette handed them some menus.

"I'll get those for you and give you a few minutes to look over the menu." Olette wrote their drinks down on the pad before going to get them, stopping at a table to check on some customers along the way.

"If you need a recommendation just ask! Everything here is fantastic!" Sora glanced over his own menu, an excited grin on his face. "Their specialty is burgers though! I always get the same thing nowadays!"

Rayne actually giggled a little at the smile on his face. "Well, if you put it like thatâ€¦" She closed the menu. "Surprise me. This isâ€¦ a date." She tested the word before speaking again. "And I was taught the man should order for the lady."

Sora blushed, shyly playing with the edge of the menu, "U-Um...if you're sure?"

She nodded, seeing Olette was making their way back over to them. _Show time, I guess. Oh man, why did it have to be that the owner's daughter is Kairi's best friend. She's probably already texted Kairi and told her I'm on a date with __**Sora.**__. A guy I officially met yesterday, though technically have known since we were kidsâ€¦. Ah geez. Vanitas is going to shit if he finds out! Or maim me!_

"So you two know what you're going to have tonight?" Olette asked as she walked to their table, a smile on her face.

Sora returned her smile with one of his own, "Yep! I'll have the Bleu Cheese Burger with fries and the Cowboy with fries also. Could I get some of your mom's homemade ranch on the side too?"

Olette gave a wink and wrote it down, before she leaned down and whispered in Sora's ear. "Family discount since you're practically family, Sor. Also, super cute girl! Proud of you for finally putting yourself out there!" She straightened. "I'll go put these in! Give it about fifteen minutes, okay? Chat away!" With that, she scurried off, leaving the awkward duo to stare at one another from across the table.

Rayne swirled her straw in her cola and took a sip. "...wanna play 20 questions?"

Grade school level of awkward. Achievement unlocked. You are officially a dork, Rayne Terezka Fair.

Mentally scolding herself, the goth held her breath and waited for

Sora to respond to her childish suggestion.

"Sure!" Sora leaned back, thoughtful expression on his face as he placed his finger against his lips, "Hmmm, DC or Marvel?"

"Definitely Marvel. Spidey, Deadpool, and Daredevil are my trio." She laughed a little. "Hmm, favorite Blitzball team?" She figured she'd hit the basics with Sora, given that Blitzball seemed to be the kid's life.

"The Zanarkand Abes! Tidus and his old man Jecht are my idols! I'd love to at least meet one of them in my life!" Sora exclaimed, an enthusiastic sparkle in his ocean blue eyes.

Rayne awkwardly rubbed her arm. "We-llâ€¦ 'bout thatâ€¦" She rubbed the back of her neck. "Dad, kinda...sortaâ€¦ is friends with Tidus. They go fishing together sometimes whenever Dad goes over to the Besaid Islands." She cleared her throat. "I could...maybe ask Dad to bring us along next time he goes? If you want?"

Sora looked as if Christmas had come early and his eyes held an adoring look in them, "R-Really? That would be so cool!" He could die at this moment and die happy. Well happy-ish, he still wanted to see where this new found relationship with Rayne Fair could go.

"Okay, soâ€¦ it's your turn." Rayne nervously was playing with her soda, clinking the ice against the glass and wondering if she was going to spontaneously combust from how warm her face felt.

Sora kept bouncing in his seat as he tried to contain his excitement and try to think of a question at the same time, "Favorite subject?"

Guilt pierced through the girl as her immediate thoughts had gone to World History. However, it hadn't necessarily been the class that had made it her favorite subject. Now, unfortunately, the thought of her favorite teacher made her stomach do a somersault and made her feel a little queasy. So, she quickly had to opt for her back-up answer.

"Drama. I'm in that course with Nams. Honestly, she's the only reason I haven't told Professor Rhapsodos to get a life. _LOVELESS_ is incomplete and forever will be. That's how the playwright intended it to be. We're supposed to be working on _I Want To Be Your Canary_ by Lord Avon, but the man is relentless." Rayne rolled her eyes. "One thing I've learned about college that I hate - teachers who use their classes to fuel their own personal agenda instead of teaching the material needed. I mean, _hello_, these kids are paying to get their degrees, not help with your obsession. Assbutt." She stopped talking, covering her mouth a second later. "S-sorryâ€¦ I ramble sometimes. I either don't talk or don't shut up."

"It's okay, I don't really ever shut up so if you don't ever feel like it I can just fill the silence!" Sora grinned over his cup at Rayne, his face resting in his hands on the table. "I've had Genesis before; Grandpa usually has to rein him in every semester. He tried putting on a play with it once and that was almost a disaster. He tried casting himself in almost every major role."

Rayne snorted at that. "Sounds like I just like him, actually. I'm lucky I get to work the soundboard and Nams is in charge of wardrobe and make-up. Have you seen that girl work her magic? I'm jealous. I'm lucky I can do my eyeliner without looking like a raccoon." She laughed a little again before taking a deep breath. "Okay, here's a harder question. Skyrim or the Capital Wasteland. Choose wisely, my friend."

"I have to go with Skyrim, I love dragons and the thought of sword fighting. Granted there is no tech and probably loads of disease, but I could ride a dragon!" Sora contemplated his next question for a moment. "Hunger Games or Harry Potter?"

She sucked in her breath sharply. "Damn, you just hit me right in my pride. Though I'd agree. Skyrim is so beautiful, especially in Falkreath. I would totally live there if it was possible. Hmm... Hunger Games. I'm a sucker for post-apocalyptic settings. Besides, I connect with Katniss. I keep hoping maybe I'll find my boy with the bread too, ya know?" She blushed and looked away. "Someone sweet and kind like Peeta. That boy had me from the moment he was called in The Reaping." Rayne tapped her fingers to her cheek. "Okay, now let's ask this. First kiss?"

Sora blushed, his fingers tapping the side of his face, "Well...I uh..." He mumbled something under his breath that barely made any sound.

She leaned in with her hand cupped around her pierced ear, which had two studs in her lobe and a cuff earring around the cartilage and a hoop above it. "Excuse me? What was that, Leonhart? Was that a Ri...Ri...Riku I just heard?"

"Yes?" He answered, the word said softly and timidly in fear that it might be overheard by others. He really didn't need this getting out to Vanitas or anyone let alone his silver haired best friend.

Rayne smiled gently. "Well, I can top that. Mine was with Vanitas. My own brother. He did it to piss off our parents. Just, planted one on me when I was eight and he was twelve. Little freak. Mom was soooo pissed. I was too. Asshole stole my first kiss just to prove a point. Then vomited right after cause, ya know, incest is not wincest. Regardless of the fanfiction community." She shuddered. "As for yours, I'm assuming it was either a forced situation involving Kairi - all the damn Sinclairs are devious as fuck - or it was accidental or experimental. Either way, I'm not judging. By the way, I have never told anyone that Van was my first kiss. So please keep it a secret." She nervously looked down, feeling like maybe she shouldn't have told him that.

"You keep mine, I'll keep yours?" Sora held out his hand, his pinky raised and a grin on his face.

She hooked pinkies immediately, seeing Olette heading over with a platter holding their meals. "Hey, want to put this on hold 'til after dinner?"

"Yeah!" Sora said excitedly, hungrily eyeing their plates. "Let's dig in!"

The two dug into their burgers the moment they could. By the time

they were done eating, Sora was licking his fingers clean. Rayne accidentally let out a loud belch, blushing hard a second later. She had forgotten she wasn't with her brother or at Namin's house. She was in front of a boy.

A cute boy. Who happened to be on a date with her.

So much for being lady-like.

Mom is gonna kill me.

"Nice one!" Sora laughed. "Seriously, that made Roxas' sound seriously weak." He caught Olette's eyes, motioning for the check. "I'll pay, okay?"

"But...but I invited _you _out."

Well, technically a meddlesome Strife by the name of Namin had done so.

"Hey you said it yourself! It's a date and the guy gets the check!" Sora winked at her as Olette came by to get their payment, "Keep the change. Olette!"

The brunette girl smiled as she waved goodbye to them, "Thanks, Sora! You two enjoy the rest of your date!"

Yup. Definitely was gonna spread all the way around school.

"So...um...where to next?" Rayne asked, following Sora outside of the diner.

They once again climbed into his car, with the pair buckling in before Sora started the ignition, put the car into reverse, and backed up. He turned the wheel with precision. She honestly didn't get why Serenity bitched about Sora's driving. He had been way safer than Vanitas or Axel behind the wheel.

"Have you gotten to see the Gardens yet?"

"Um, no. Vanitas hasn't had time to take me, and 'cause I don't have a car yet I haven't been able to get to them. Serenity promised to take me when we had time, but with Axel...yeah. Flowers and him don't seem like a good idea. He'd probably set everything on fire."

"Yeah...we don't need that happening again."

"Again? Okay, please tell me you're seriously not okay with getting that crazy ass pyro as your brother-in-law!"

"He treats my big sis right! Really that's all I can need him to do. We've all agreed he's not allowed near the kitchen during holidays...or parties...or ever really."

"Goddamn. Well, I guess I'm equally screwed. Knowing my brother, I'm gonna end up with a hussy as a sister-in-law to mentally scar me with their wild sexual antics for the rest of my natural born life." Rayne groaned at the thought. "Why couldn't my brother be _normal_?"

Sora glanced at Rayne out of the corner of his eyes. _I guess she doesn't know about Ven...weird since she lives at Vanitas' and is over at Naminã's all the time. Oh well not my place to say anything!_

"What? What's with the weird look? Tell me! Is there something I don't know?"

"Just that you're missing out on the pretty flowers. And considering that your Mom owns a flower shop, that kind of surprises me. I thought you'd go to the Gardens the moment you got to Radiant Garden. I mean, the city is named after them." Sora chuckled, keeping his mouth shut on the whole Vanitas/Ven thing for now. He turned, heading down the road that would take them to the Gardens. "I feel honored that I'm the one taking you, actually."

Rayne crossed her arms, turning red. "I...take more after my father, okay?"

Okay, technically a lie. According to Zack, Rayne mimicked his older sister more than she did anyone else in the family. But Sora didn't need to know that she was actually allergic to most plants and flowers!

Hello Benadryl my old friend!

Something told her that this date was going to end up _pretty_ interesting.

End
file.